



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96301

15 March 1979
MSK9040

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[redacted]
Chief, Operations Group

Dear John:

Subject: Russian Regional Monitoring

[redacted] has confirmed during his current TDY here to check our reception of Soviet Far East regional stations that Seoul Bureau could regularly monitor Chita, Petropavlosk, Anadyr, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Ulan-ude, and Yakutsk, none of which is monitorable from Okinawa. We have been recording the above stations for processing by BBC.

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As you know, we have no Russian capability here and as a result, we have had some difficulty with our recording effort. Our technicians cannot keep up with routine changes in broadcast times or frequencies and therefore we have had to have [redacted] and [redacted] here on TDY to put the project back on track. Both [redacted] and [redacted] have worked with our technicians to enable them to recognize station identification signals and to do a better job of tuning in general, and their recording is considerably better now than previously. Nevertheless, we will probably never be able to do without periodic TDY's by Russian linguists.

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Given the number of Russian stations monitorable here and the difficulty of the recording effort without permanent Russian capability, I would recommend the addition of a Russian monitor to Seoul Bureau. There is clearly enough work here for one monitor, and indeed one would probably still have to mail some recordings to BBC for processing.

I would not recommend transferring one Russian monitor position from Okinawa, although that would be possible. My understanding is that covering MONTSAME in addition to the voice stations Okinawa now monitors requires two Russians. One of the Russian monitors now on Okinawa could be transferred here with the new recruit going to Okinawa.

Given the BBC interest in Russian regionals, it might be possible to have a BBC Russian monitor transferred to Seoul.

The addition of a TCN here would require Embassy approval, but I think that could be obtained. We would also of course have to acquire an additional Category III MODE authorization; again, I believe Embassy approval would be forthcoming.

If you approve the addition of a Russian monitor to Seoul Bureau, I would first attempt to find a local-hire monitor, although past efforts turned up no likely prospects and I doubt we would be any more successful this time.

Sincerely,



Chief, Seoul Bureau

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cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau

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ROUTING	DATE	INITIALS	REMARKS				
1. C/Ops							
2.	2/4						
3. C/Ops			Feeling in FCS is that ideally, Russian monitoring should be done in Seoul rather than Oki anyway. Seoul could get most if not all of what Oki is now covering plus additional stations Bill lists in his letter. This, of course, raises all kinds of personnel problems. With regard to the specific question raised -- can Seoul use a full-time Russian monitor -- the answer is we don't really know. We have never surveyed reception of Soviet regionals there in summertime. We do know that many of the regionals Seoul takes during winter fade out in summer. We're not certain there would be enough work to keep a full-time monitor busy.				
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